

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

U.S. Application No. 09/925,504

Q65789

REMARKS

Claim 1 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claim 7 is added. Therefore, claims 2-7 are the claims now pending in the Application.

Claims 2 and 3 are re-written in independent form. This change in form is not a narrowing amendment. No estoppel is created.

Formal Matters

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for foreign priority and the receipt of the priority document.

However, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner for acknowledge and approve the drawings filed August 10, 2001.

Rejection of Claims 1-6 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Fujiwara, et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001-0013843 A1) in view of Lane (U.S. Patent No. 5,823,784). This rejection is traversed.

Claim 1 is canceled therefore the rejection is moot as to claim 1.

Among the problems recognized and solved by Applicant's claimed invention is that of producing a plurality of display units with substantially identical structures to simplify production and assembly and to reduce cost, such that each unit has the ability to display an

image and to erase an image area.¹ According to an aspect of Applicant's claimed invention, a display unit of the device has, as part of the same display unit, both means to display an image and means to erase an area of the displayed image. The prior art, including Fujiwara and Lane, do not identify this problem, let alone disclose the solutions provided by Applicant's claimed invention.

Claim 2 requires, *inter alia*, a display unit equipped with an erasure unit, the erasure unit having a function of displaying an image in which a region is painted out. Further, claim 3 requires, *inter alia*, that the on-screen display unit of the display unit is the same as the erasure unit.

Fujiwara discloses a projection display apparatus in which each projector of a multi-projector apparatus projects the same image to a screen. Fujiwara discloses that each projector of the multi-projector system is adjustable with one input operation. Fujiwara fails to disclose or suggest an erasure unit. The Examiner acknowledges this fact. (Office Action, Page 2.)

Lane discloses an electric fire simulator which includes a projector to project an image of a fire and a separate LCD solid-state shutter assembly positioned between the screen and the projector to selectively allow or occlude the incidence on the screen of the fire image.

Lane does not disclose or suggest a display unit equipped with an erasure unit. The Examiner alleges that Lane discloses a slave display unit with an erase unit. However, in fact,

¹ Applicant does not represent that every embodiment of Applicant's claimed invention necessarily addresses this problem or provides any of the particular solutions herein discussed. This discussion merely illustrates some aspects of Applicant's claimed invention.

Lane does not disclose a display unit equipped with an erasure feature or erasure structure. Instead, Lane discloses that a separate LCD solid-state shutter assembly is positioned between the screen and the projector configured to display the image of the fire. As discussed, the erasure unit integration in the display unit, according to an illustrative aspect of Applicant's claimed invention, allows simplification of display unit's structure and also facilitates a system in which all the display units have substantially identical structures.

Further, Lane does not disclose or suggest a painted out area of an image. The painting out of an area of an image, for example, painting out in black, allows the erasure unit to be integrated with the display unit, as explained above. Therefore, Lane is incapable of disclosing or suggesting a display unit equipped with an erasure unit, the erasure unit having a function of displaying an image in which a region is painted out, as *inter alia* require by claim 2. Further, Lane is incapable of disclosing or suggesting that the on-screen display unit of the display unit is the same as the erasure unit, as *inter alia*, required by claim 3. Therefore, Fujiwara and Lane, even taken together in combination, do not disclose the recitations of Applicant's invention as claimed in claims 2 and 3.

Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that there would have been no suggestion or motivation for combining Fujiwara and Lane to arrive at Applicant's claimed invention. Fujiwara and Lane belong to the prior art identified by Applicant's disclosure, since Fujiwara and Lane do not disclose or suggest the need for a plurality of display units with the same structure, each unit with the means to display an image and to erase an area of the image.

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Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that a person of ordinary skill in the art would have had no motivation for arriving at Applicant's claimed invention based on Fujiwara and Lane.

Claims 4 and 5 depend from independent claim 3. Claim 6 depends from claim 2.

Therefore, claims 4, 5 and 6 incorporate novel and nonobvious features of respective base claims and are patentably distinguishable over the prior art for at least the reasons that their respective base claims are patentably distinguishable over the prior art.

New claim 7 is added. Claim 7 contains no new matter and is patentable over the prior art.

In view of the foregoing remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this Application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WAS
CLOSED ON THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 18 AND FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 19, 2003. THEREFORE,
THIS AMENDMENT IS TIMELY
FILED.